

Minutes of Water Advisory Committee and Technical Advisory Committee
September 13, 2010

Attendees: Jake Mackenzie, City of Rohnert Park
Darrin Jenkins, City of Rohnert Park
Laurie Gallian, City of Sonoma
Milenka Bates, City of Sonoma
Mark Landman, City of Cotati
Damien O'Bid, City of Cotati
Jack Baker, North Marin Water District
Chris DeGabriele, North Marin Water District
Drew McIntyre, North Marin Water District
Mike Ban, Marin Municipal Water District
Pam Torliatt, City of Petaluma
Pamela Tuft, City of Petaluma
Ramleh Scherginger, City of Petaluma
Steve Simmons, City of Petaluma
Richard Burt, Town of Windsor
Paul Kelley, SCWA
Grant Davis, SCWA
Spencer Bader, SCWA
Jay Jasperse, SCWA
Brad Sherwood, SCWA
David Manning, SCWA
Pam Jeane, SCWA
Carrie Pollard, SCWA
Mike Thompson, SCWA
Michael Gossman, SCWA
Steve Shupe, SCWA
Jessica Martini-Lamb, SCWA
George Lincoln, SCWA
Jean Mariani, SCWA
Mark Bramfitt, Valley of the Moon Water District
Susan Gorin, City of Santa Rosa
Miles Ferris, City of Santa Rosa
Glen Wright, City of Santa Rosa
Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa
Linda Reed, City of Santa Rosa
Janet Reisner, City of Santa Rosa

Public Attendees: Brenda Adelman, RRWPC
J. Dietrich Stroeh, CSW/Stuber-Stroeh Engineering
Emily Dean, CSW/ Stuber-Stroeh Engineering
Bob Anderson, United Wine Growers
Dawna Gallagher
Colleen Fernald
Ruth Langudg, UCSC

1. Check In:
WAC Chairperson, Jake Mackenzie called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. This was a special meeting of the WAC to prepare for the Sonoma County Board of Director meeting to be held on September 21st.
2. Public Comment
No public comment at this time.
3. Recap from the August 2, 2010 WAC/TAC Meeting and Approval of Minutes
Susan Gorin, City of Santa Rosa, made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 2, 2010 WAC/TAC meeting. The motion was seconded by Chair Jake Mackenzie. All approved.
4. Draft SCWA Water Supply Strategy Action Plan Comment
TAC Chair DeGabriele acknowledged SCWA for their preparation of the Strategy Action Plan as well as the individual contractors for their comments and input. 118 comments were submitted by the 8 contractors and SCWA compiled the comments and sorted them by Strategy. Two areas had common themes:
 - 1) Providing Periodic Updates and 2) Costs. In addition to the 2 common themes there are five areas where similar comments were made by contractors. Chair Mackenzie asked WAC members to walk through the document and provide input. It was decided that Chair Mackenzie and Vice Chair Gorin reiterate the theme in their opening statement to the Board of Directors that the priority of the WAC is the over-arching theme of overall reliability of the water supply. Individual comments from water contractors in the walk through of the document were:
Susan Gorin – thought it might be helpful to define “periodic” by stating the expectation, such as quarterly at WAC meetings.
Laurie Gallian – wanted the need for clear, transparent communication stressed in opening statements.
Pam Torliatt – wanted to include a sentence regarding developing a multi-year budget under Costs. She also wanted the minutes to reflect her concern regarding SCWA providing 75,000 af of water supplied to the contractors *without* relying on ground water or local supply in that amount, but that the ground water supply shall remain separate for use and control by the contractors.
Mark Landman – agreed to including multi-year budgets in wording.
Grant Davis – SCWA is working toward multi-year budgets but they can’t guarantee they are ready to do that at this time.
Jay Jasperse – noted that financial planning and budgeting are different.

It was agreed that a sentence be added to Common Theme, Provide Periodic Updates: Utilize WAC and Water Supply Coordinating Council meetings to provide the periodic updates. And to Costs: add Development of a multi-year budget is encouraged and to add “both regional and local” to the cost effectiveness of proposed projects.

Five areas were identified where similar comments were made by Water Contractors indicating general agreement. No suggestions were made for #1 and #2. For #3, discussion ensued regarding the ground water banking and Pam Torliatt wanted the minutes to reflect that any development of local water supply should not be considered as part of the 75,000 af that is guaranteed to be delivered by SCWA. Discussion included cost to contractors, funding and delivery. For #4 and #5, no issues came up but it was agreed that Strategy #5 and Strategy #9 be combined.

Dawna Gallagher wanted to state that in 9 months a plan will be in place and then we will have the information needed to get qualification for funding of projects.

Paul Kelley stated that the Action Plan is the implementation of the delivery of the 75,000 af. These comments from contractors are not decisions, but comments which are appreciated.

Colleen Fernald stated she is concerned the City of Sebastopol is relying on ground water as their water supply. She asked what protections are in place for neighboring cities outside of the system. She wanted to know how private well owners would be protected. Chair Mackenzie reminded the public that comments were being solicited regarding the Action Plan at this time. J. Dietrich Stroeh congratulated both committees on the excellent work done on this document which he said will continue to be a living document.

5. Temporary Urgency Change Order & Water Contractor Statistics
TAC is still in the process of collecting statistics. After these are all submitted they will be handed to SCWA for their reporting to the State Water Board.
6. Water Supply Coordinating Council –
No updates since last meeting.
7. Biological Opinion Status Update
 - Dry Creek Demonstration Project
 - 10% conceptual design is complete
 - NOP for Initial Study issued June 23, 2010 (35-day review period, closed July 29th)
 - Initial Study for public review anticipated mid-Nov
 - Wohler Pond Modification Project
 - Plans have been approved by NMFS
 - Permits received from USACE and CDFG
 - Awaiting a permit from the North Coast Regional Board
 - There is a 30-day public notice period, the announcement has not been posted yet
 - Project will likely be initiated in early summer 2011
 - Mirabel Screen and Fish Ladder Replacement
 - The Agency applied for CDFG Fishery Restoration Grant Funds to assist with design of the fish ladder component of the project. SCWA expects to hear about the status of the application in early 2011 and are waiting to proceed until then. Any work initiated prior to the receipt of grant funds cannot be used as match.
 - Russian River Estuary Management Project
 - Single closure during the Lagoon Management Period – July 4th, implemented outlet channel adaptive management plan on July 8th, closed again and naturally breached on July 11th
 - Fisheries, water quality, invertebrate, pinniped monitoring ongoing
 - Draft EIR anticipated to be released for public review by early October
 - Public hearings in October
 - Final EIR by December
 - Fish Flows Project

- Title of project to comply with the BO requirement to permanent change Decision 1610 is the “Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project” – Fish Flows Project for short
- BO requires issuance of NOP six months from date of State Water Resources Control Board public notice of Agency’s petition to change Decision 1610
 - NOP will be released by September 29th
 - Scoping meetings in early November
- EIR Schedule
 - Release Draft EIR in summer 2012
 - Release Final EIR in summer 2013
 - BO requires Board to certify Final EIR by September 24, 2013
- EIR will be prepared by SCWA staff
 - With assistance from consultants on some areas of impact analysis
 - Recreation
 - Socioeconomics
 - Possibly water quality
 - Reasons for decision to prepare EIR in-house
 - Agency has staff with the experience and time available to dedicate to the project
 - Would require significant time and resources to get a consultant up to speed on the Agency’s water rights and the BO requirements
 - Important to invest the time and effort in the Agency’s staff to have the understanding of the complex water rights process available within the Agency into the future

Discussion regarding funding of Biological Opinion Projects ensued. Grant Davis stated state funding is a concern due to the budget issues and said they will be going to Washington to try to secure federal funding. TAC Chair DeGabriele asked for an update on the Dry Creek Pipeline Feasibility Study. David Manning, SCWA said they hope to have the study completed by next year. He said most of the advanced detail engineering plans are on hold due to the habitat study. He agreed to provide updates on this draft feasibility study, and Pam Jeane said they can bring updates to the regularly scheduled WAC quarterly meetings.

Public Comment – Brenda Adelman said she has concerns that the Estuary Project is on a fast track for their EIR before D1610 changes will be completed.

8. September 18, 2010 Tour of SCWA Facilities at Wohler and Mirabel-

Grant Davis asked that anyone planning on attending this tour needs to advise Brad Sherwood by the end of this meeting so they can plan for transportation. He noted that only a total of 9 people signed up for the tour. It was stated that election campaigning is keeping some committee members occupied on the weekends.

9. Items for Next Agenda –

- Santa Rosa Plain ground water
- Updates from SCWA
- Decisions and Actions of SCWA Board of Directors’ Meeting on September 21st

10. Check Out

WAC Chair Mackenzie will be in Scotland for the November 1st WAC/TAC. Vice Chair Gorin suggested meeting stay on calendar as scheduled.

Salmon Coalition will hold a meeting on September 21st.

Efforts are being made to secure funds for the FY11 Budget. A small delegation will be heading to Washington DC. The next WAC meeting will include a report from this trip.

There being no further business to come before the Water Advisory Committee and the Technical Advisory Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m. The next TAC meeting will be held on October 4, 2010 and next WAC/TAC meeting will be November 1, 2010.

11. Items for Next Agenda

- Special meeting of the WAC for consolidation of comments in preparation for meeting before the Board of Directors.
- November meeting –
 - Multi-year budget
 - Recap of Board of Directors Meeting
 - Water pricing – David Keller said the PUC held a workshop showing how water is underpriced. He suggested this information be approached with an open mind. Paul Helliker will distribute a report from the School of Berkley on Public Goods Charge for Water. This will be sent to Janet Reisner for distribution.
 - After November meeting there will be a tour of the Santa Rosa West College Facility
 - Santa Rosa Plain Ground Water

12. Check Out

Robin Goble announced The Russian River Watershed Association next meeting will be held on September 23, 2010 at 9:00 at the Windsor Council Chambers. This meeting will be in regards to Potter Valley Project. There being no further business to come before the Water Advisory Committee and the Technical Advisory Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m. The next meeting will be a special meeting of the WAC and TAC and will be held on September 13, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. at the Laguna Treatment Plant.